50. A method for providing a probiotic to the gastrointestinal tract of an animal selected from the group consisting of birds and mammals, comprising selecting a *Lactobacillus reuteri* strain which produces beta-hydroxypropionaldehyde as a detectable end-product under anaerobic conditions and in the presence of glycerol or glyceraldehyde; and feeding the animal as a probiotic an amount of said selected *Lactobacillus reuteri* strain sufficient to colonize the gastrointestinal tract of the animal.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks set forth herein. Support for entry of these amendments is requested as complying with the Examiner's suggestions in the Office Action herein.

Claim 50, replacing claim 48, recites: A method for providing a probiotic to the gastrointestinal tract of an animal selected from the group consisting of birds and mammals, comprising selecting a *Lactobacillus reuteri* strain which produces beta-hydroxypropionaldehyde as a detectable end-product under anaerobic conditions and in the presence of glycerol or glyceraldehyde; and feeding the animal as a probiotic an amount of said selected *Lactobacillus reuteri* strain sufficient to colonize the gastrointestinal tract of the animal.

Support for this terminology is found in original claims 19-20, 22, 29; previous claim 48, at page 12, lines 13 to page 15, line 11; and at page 16.

In the Office Action of October 1, 1997, the Examiner took the following actions: (1) rejected claims 45-46 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph stating that there was no support in the disclosure for 200 micrograms of beta-hydroxypropionaldehyde per gram